

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 24 and 25.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 95[[85]]% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the polypeptide has a B7-like co-stimulatory activity selected from the group consisting of: ability to modulate T-cell proliferation, ability to modulate cytokine production, ability to up-regulate molecules that mediate cell-cell interaction, and ability to modulate antibody secretion by B-cells;

b) a polypeptide encoded by a[the] nucleotide sequence which is at least 95[[93]]% identical to the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, or at least 95[[83]]% identical to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:21, wherein the polypeptide has a B7-like co-stimulatory activity selected from the group consisting of: ability to modulate T-cell proliferation, ability to modulate cytokine production, ability to up-regulate molecules that mediate cell-cell interaction, and ability to modulate antibody secretion by B-cells; and

c) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number PTA-2085;

the method comprising:

i) contacting a sample comprising the polypeptide with a test compound under conditions suitable for binding; and

ii) detecting binding of the test compound to the polypeptide;

thereby identifying a compound which binds to the polypeptide.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the sample is an isolated polypeptide, ~~a membrane-bound form of an isolated polypeptide~~ or a cell comprising the polypeptide.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

a) direct detection of test compound/polypeptide binding;

- b) a competition binding assay; and
- c) a two-hybrid assay or three-hybrid assay.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the test compound is labeled.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein the label is selected from the group consisting of a radioisotope label and an enzymatic label.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide is a fusion protein further comprising heterologous sequences.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

- a) cytokine production assay; and
- b) T-cell proliferation assay.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:21.